

Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace FIGS. 1-3 with the figures shown on the enclosed replacement sheets.

In FIG. 1, please add reference character 20 and corresponding lead line as shown.

In FIG. 3, move reference character 242 and its lead line to indicate the line connecting box 240 and box 242.

In FIG. 3, move box 235 to be between diamond 230 and box 240.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated November 17, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Drawing Objections

The drawings stand objected to because the handwritten numbers and words are not easy to read. Applicants have replaced the handwritten characters with typeset characters.

The drawings stand objected to for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because FIG. 3 contains reference character 242 directed to the wrong line. Applicants have amended FIG. 3 to move reference character 242 and its lead line. Applicants have also amended FIG. 3 to move box 235 between diamond 230 and box 240 in accordance with the description (see page 8, lines 7-21).

The drawings stand objected to for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference sign "tunnel 20" mentioned at page 2, line 11 of the description. Applicants have amended FIG. 1 to include reference character 20 and an appropriate lead line connected to the tunnel.

The drawings stand objected to for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because FIG. 3 contains reference character 270 not mentioned in the description. Applicants have amended the specification to include reference character 270 corresponding to the box 270 in FIG. 3.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 8-10, and 15 stand objected to because of informalities. Applicants have canceled claim 8 without prejudice, rendering the objection of this claim moot. Applicants have amended claims 1, 9-10 and 15 per the Examiner's suggestions.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §102

Claims 1-6 and 10-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,642,393 (Krug). Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are patentable.

Regarding independent claim 1, Krug does not teach, disclose or suggest a threat resolution system including at least the initial explosives detection CT scanning system for

identifying a threat in a package. The Examiner cited FIG. 1, item 12 of Krug, as disclosing an initial explosives detection system, FIG. 2 as disclosing a first secondary scanning system, and FIG. 5 as disclosing a second secondary scanning system. Krug notes that the device 12 is a level one x-ray inspection device (Col. 3, lines 42-43), which Krug further notes can communicate with a CT scanner (Col. 2, lines 5-6), and is thus clearly not a CT device itself. FIGS. 2 and 5 show an x-ray inspection device 30, and a coherent x-ray probe 140 employed in the device 30, with the device 30 receiving and inspecting bags determined by the device 12 to possibly contain contraband (Col. 3, lines 50-53). The device 30, including the probe 140, is not a CT scanning system. Indeed, Krug teaches away from using a CT scanning system as the device 30 (see Col. 3, line 64 - Col. 4, line 3 and Col. 8, line 59 - Col. 9, line 7). Claim 1, however, recites a threat resolution system for identifying and resolving threats within packages including an initial explosives detection CT scanning system for identifying a threat in a package based upon CT reconstructed information of the package and a nature of the threat. For at least these reasons, independent claim 1 and claims 2-7, and 9 that depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are patentable over Krug.

Regarding independent claim 10, Krug does not teach, disclose or suggest a method of scanning packages for resolution of threats including performing an initial CT scan of the packages. The Examiner cited FIG. 1, item 12 of Krug, as disclosing identifying threats and a nature of the threats based upon an initial scan of packages, FIG. 2 as disclosing performing a secondary scan of a first type on packages having threats of a first nature, and FIG. 5 as disclosing a secondary scan of a second type on packages having threats of a second nature. As discussed above, the device 12 is not a CT device, and neither FIG. 2 nor FIG. 5 show CT devices. Thus, Krug does not teach, disclose, or suggest performing an initial CT scan, performing a secondary CT scan of a first type on a package where the package has a threat of a first nature, and performing a secondary CT scan of a second type on the package where the package has a threat of a second nature, as recited. Further, the Examiner cited Col. 6, lines 63-67 of Krug as disclosing “resolving threats based upon one of the secondary scan of the first type and the secondary scan of the second type.” This portion of Krug, that discusses FIG. 6, as well as FIG. 6 and Col. 7, lines 1-8, discuss and show using a projection x-ray scan, followed by either of two non-CT examinations depending upon a threat’s size, followed by coherent (Rayleigh) x-ray scatter analysis. This also does not teach, disclose, or suggest the recited

performing of an initial CT scan and performing secondary scans of first and second types for threats of first and second natures, respectively. Thus, for at least these reasons, independent claim 10, and claims 11-15 that depend from claim 10, are patentable over Krug.

Claims 1-6 and 8-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,367,552 (Peschmann). Claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice rendering the rejection moot. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-6 and 9-14 are patentable over Peschmann.

Regarding independent claim 1, Peschmann does not teach, disclose or suggest a threat resolution system including at least the initial explosives detection CT scanning system for identifying a threat in a package. The Examiner cited FIG. 1-1, item 32 as an initial explosives detection scanning system. Peschmann discusses that item 32 is a line scanner that provides projection x-ray data for use in identifying CT scan locations (Col. 4, lines 42-63), and is thus not a CT scanning system itself. Peschmann, however, does not teach, disclose or suggest an initial explosive detection CT scanning system for identifying a threat in package based upon CT reconstruction information as recited in claim 1. For at least these reasons, independent claim 1, and claims 2-6 and 9 that depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are patentable over Peschmann.

Regarding independent claim 10, Peschmann does not teach, disclose or suggest a method of scanning packages for resolution of threats including performing an initial CT scan of the packages. As discussed above, Peschmann discusses a prescan based on projection x-ray data, not performing a CT scan. In contrast, claim 10 recites a method of scanning packages for resolution of threats including performing an initial CT scan of a package and performing CT reconstruction on information from the initial CT scan to obtain CT reconstruction information. For at least these reasons independent claim 10, and claims 11-15 that depend from claim 10, are patentable over Peschmann.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §103

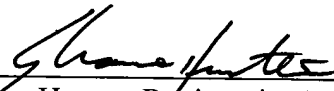
Claims 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Krug in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,600,700 (the '700 patent). Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are patentable over Krug and the '700 patent. The Examiner does not assert that the '700 patent makes up for the deficiencies of Krug noted above with respect to independent

claims 1 and 10. Thus, claim 5 that depends from claim 1, and claim 15 that depends from claim 10, are patentable over Krug and the '700 patent for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 10 in view of Krug.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call Applicants' Attorney at the number provided below with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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